

INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE 11 August 1948

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet OB Notes: Bitterfeld, Bad Kösen,
Stendal; Ludwigslust, Parchim

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

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25X1 1. Bitterfeld (E14)

A rail transport, observed at the Bitterfeld station on 12 June 1948, hauled 29 new armored reconnaissance cars with air-cooled 76.2 machine guns. Crews did not accompany this shipment which, [REDACTED] was en route from Kladno, Czechoslovakia, to Zossen (Z91).

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2. Bad Kösen (J78)

a. A check of this area on 14 June revealed that the new troop training grounds, extending over 1,000 Morgen, had been finished. Sixty large barracks holding about 150 men each, are located in a wooded area along the Bad Kösen-Kuckelau road.

b. There are approximately 5,000 engineer troops at the training grounds. A permit entitling the local shepherd to enter the restricted area was signed by Major Sikov of 452 Engineer Brigade (Natchalnik Staba sap. brig. No. 452/Major Sikov). The number 142 was discerned on an otherwise illegible stamp following Sikov's signature.

c. The engineer park in the meadows along the Saale between Bad Kösen and Saaleck (J78) contains two motorized bridge columns of Soviet construction, sheet metal pontoons in four sections, wood-covered steel beams, and pneumatic rafts. The latter are loaded three to each Studebaker truck (total rafts and trucks not reported). The unit is well equipped with amphibious vehicles. Training includes bridge building, raids against emplacements, laying and removal of mine fields.

3. Stendal (Y85)

[REDACTED] seventy-two YAK-1's over the airfield. Train gossips alleged that there are more than 200 aircraft on the Stendal field, as well as an armored unit with 200 tanks and SSU's.

4. Ludwigslust (T63)

a. Only Soviet housekeeping troops were seen in Ludwigslust, 16-17 June. Two rifle regiments normally in the town were maneuvering in the Leussower Forst, 20 kilometers west of Ludwigslust. These regiments are partly motorized and the men wear red tabs with black piping and black tabs with red piping.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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b. Ludwigslust Airfield is located two kilometers southeast of the town, west of the Ludwigslust-Grabow road, and north of Reichsstrasse 191. It is in good condition. There are two large hangars with curved roofs, four repair shops, and two administrative-flight buildings with tower. There are no SAF units at the field now, though it is occasionally used by single fighters.

c. The airfield is now occupied by a heavy mortar battalion with four companies, each company equipped with twelve 120 mm mortars on one-axle trailers.

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[redacted] Troops wore black tabs with red piping.

5.

Parchim (T74)

a. An armored unit with JS-2 tanks, one SSU regiment, and one motorized rifle battalion was at Parchim Airfield, 18-19 June. The field is pocked with bomb craters, but the runway was little damaged and is scheduled to be repaired. Underground tanking installations were not hit at all, and sometime between 7 and 19 June were filled up by five tank trains of 8-10 cars apiece.

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b. [redacted] The presence of a higher staff at the Parchim Landratsamt is indicated by 1) a one-star general in command; 2) an extensive telephone wire display; and 3) frequent use of the word "Korpus" by Russians dining at the mess.

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c. Barracks along the west side of the road to Puttlitz were occupied by 120 tanks, mostly T-34's, which returned from a maneuver area during the night of 19 June.

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